

From: Denniston
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 5:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Susan Denniston

4731 117th Place NE

Kirkland, WA 98033

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It greatly disturbs me that Microsoft's opponents are currently seeking to overturn the settlement that has been proposed and bring further litigation against Microsoft. I do not believe that this is either necessary or wise. Not only would additional federal action be painfully redundant, it would also negatively impact the economy, the computer industry, and ultimately the consumer.

The settlement seems fair enough to both Microsoft and its competitors. For one thing, Microsoft is allowed to remain intact, but its competitors have had the playing field leveled for them. So operations at Microsoft will continue with several restrictions and changes, but the normalcy that will remain in Microsoft's operations will not hinder or harm the progress of competitors. For example, Microsoft will refrain from entering into any contract that would require a third party

to distribute Microsoft products either exclusively or at a fixed percentage. Microsoft has also agreed to document and disclose source code from its Windows operating system for use by its competitors and to facilitate their ability to operate within the Microsoft framework. I believe this part of the agreement is extremely generous on Microsoft's part!

It is in everyone's best interest to drop the idea of continued litigation - especially in light of the ridiculous new lawsuit announced by AOL this week against Microsoft. No one will benefit in the long run from an extended suit. I urge you and your office to support the finalization of the settlement.

Sincerely,

Susan Denniston

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